



**Special points of interest:**

- Changing Faces
- Noteworthy Agreements
- Preparedness Announcement
- Future Newsletters

## The Office of Border Health: Building Networks

As summer transitions into fall, this is an opportune time for the Office of Border Health to provide an update of current projects and an overview of events in the coming months.

As many of you know, many facets of public health are coordinated through the Office of Border Health. The US-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC) Arizona Outreach Office Coordinator collaborates with border health workers on programs targeting key issues along the border. The Arizona Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) coordinators and the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) coordinators focus on trina-tional public health emergency preparedness and infectious disease surveillance.

May marked one year for Robert Guerrero serving the Arizona border-region as Chief of the Office of Border Health. Robert dutifully took the place of Dr. Cecilia Rosales and brought to the office his vision for a healthy border and strong binational ties. As Robert served on the USMBHC Arizona Advisory Board and a was later the Operations Manager for the U.S. Section of the USMBHC in El Paso, joining forces with the Office of Border Health was familiar territory.

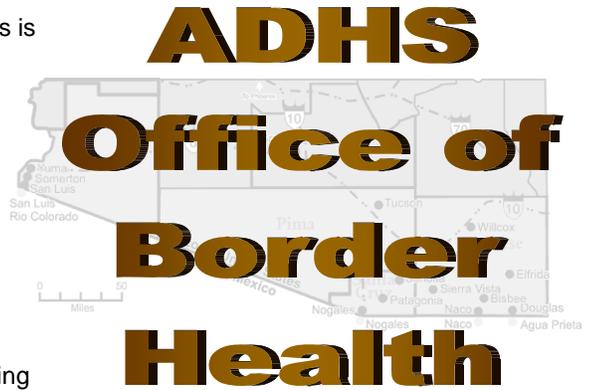
We are delighted to provide a newsletter updating colleagues and community members on what we are working towards and hope that you will provide us with upcoming events to share along the Arizona-Sonora border as well. Please let us know your questions and comments. We are happy to hear them!

### A Memorable Binational Exchange

A commitment made to the Hospital General in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico by former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, was fulfilled in June of this year.

The former HHS Secretary committed to purchasing and transferring a CT Scanner to the Hospital General in Nogales, Sonora in a speech made during the inaugural events of the first Border Binational Health Week which was celebrated in ambos Nogales in October of 2004.

The U.S. Section of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission officially transferred title of the equipment to the Secretaria de Salud de Sonora during the Arizona-Mexico Commission Plenary held in June. While the equipment has yet to be inaugurated into official use, it is an honor that the USMBHC, Arizona Delegation, played a key role in this collaboration.



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## Commission News

### A New But Familiar Face

Dr. Cecilia Rosales, formerly Chief of the Office of Border Health, Arizona Department of Health Services, moved on to continue her border health work with the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

She was recruited and hired as an associate professor of public health in the Community, Environment, and Policy concentration July 1, 2005. Dr. Rosales teaches public health policy and management courses and is currently developing a border health policy course for the Master in Public Health (MPH) program which she plans to teach in the spring semester of 2007 with the help of her friends and colleagues from the four Border State Health Offices.

Dr. Cecilia Rosales was nominated by



Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona to serve on the USMBHC. Her nomination was later approved by the White House and in March 2006 she was officially appointed as a Commission member for Arizona by President George W. Bush. Dr. Rosales joins Ms. Emma Torres, who was appointed as a Commission member by President Bush in 2003, on the Arizona Delegation of the Commission. Ms. Torres brings extensive experience and expertise in farm worker and migration issues and serves as Executive Director of Campesinos Sin Fronteras, a non-profit, non-governmental organization located in Somerton, Arizona a community located within Yuma County under 5 miles from the Arizona-Sonora border.

### Arizona Rural Health Association Recognizes USMBHC Members

During the Arizona Rural Health Association's 33th Annual Rural Health Conference held in July in Bisbee, Arizona, a current member and a former member of the Arizona USMBHC delegation were recognized for their outstanding work.

The Arizona Rural Health Association awarded the Outstanding Rural Health Project award to Campesinos Sin Fronteras for their Campesino Diabetes Management Program. Emma Torres, executive director of Campesinos Sin Fronteras and USMBHC Arizona Commission Member graciously accepted the award

along with her sister Idolina, at the awards ceremony.

The Arizona Rural Health Association awarded former Arizona USMBHC Commission Member, and current Representative from District 24, the Honorable Amanda Aguirre, the Legislator of the Year award for her outstanding work in the Arizona Legislature.

The USMBHC and the Arizona Delegation is delighted that it's previous and current members are making such positive impact in their communities.

**Congratulations!**

### Changing Faces—Outreach Coordinator

Carmen Ferlan, USMBHC Outreach Coordinator since the fall of last year moved on to work specifically in Nogales, Arizona with Mariposa Community Health Center. We are hoping she will contribute to Commission events and future plans.

In June, Laura Reichhardt stepped into the position of Outreach Coordinator. Raised along the Arizona border, she is looking forward to meeting all the key players along the border and strategizing with them on ways to make a

stronger, healthier border region. We welcome Laura to the Office of Border Health.

The US-Mexico Border Health Commission will be drafting its 2007 work-plan in the coming weeks. As key players along the border, your input is highly valuable.

To give light to upcoming projects you have or to give input on past projects sponsored by the USMBHC, send your comments to Laura at [reichhl@azdhs.gov](mailto:reichhl@azdhs.gov). All input will be considered and is greatly appreciated.

*To Provide  
international leadership  
to optimize health and  
quality of life among  
the United State-  
Mexico Border  
-USMBHC mission*

## Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance

### A Message from EWIDS Border Preparedness Coordinator

The Arizona Department of Health Services Office of Border Health (ADHS) and La Secretaría de Servicios de Salud de Sonora (SSS) continue with their strong, long-standing relationship of cooperation and work together. We work closely to increase cross-border infectious disease surveillance and the sharing of epidemiologic data across the international border.

At the Arizona-Mexico Commission 2006 summer plenary session held in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Health Services Committee

proposed actions items to 'coordinate the exchange of appropriate public health information to better protect the communities of the region', and to develop 'a protocol between ADHS and the SSS on how appropriate public health information will be shared.

The declaration of cooperation was signed by ADHS Director Susan Gerard, SSS Secretario Dr. Raymundo López Vuvovich, Governor Janet Napolitano and Governor Eduardo Bours.

### Simple Steps to Staying Flu Free

**The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated** each fall, but good health habits are other measures that can help protect against the flu.

**Avoid close contact** with people who are sick, keep your distance from other to protect them from getting sick also.

**When you are sick, stay home** from work, school, and running errands to prevent other from getting sick as well.

**Clean your hands** often will protect you from germs

from germs.

**Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It will prevent others around you from getting sick.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth** because germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

More information on prevention is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.  
-World Health Organization, 1948

### Pandemic Flu—How prepared is our border region?

Chaz Lacy-Martinez and Myrna Ruiz are working State epidemiologists and emergency preparedness experts from ADHS and the SSS on a regional influenza pandemic plan. The regional plan will address cross-border State-to-State communication, information sharing, disease surveillance, and isolation and quarantine. The regional plan will be a supplement to the existing Arizona State plan.

To take a look at the Arizona state plan

or to get more information about the happenings of Pandemic Flu Preparedness, go to the website [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) and click on the *State & Local Planning* tab on the top of the page. The one-stop access site will inform you on both national and global happenings and answer any questions you may have.



### Noteworthy Agreements

The Office of Border Health recently attended the Arizona-Mexico Commission bi-annual meeting from June 15 – June 17. During the meeting, an declaration of cooperation between the Governors of Arizona and Sonora and their respective Secretaries of State was made stating that the Arizona-Sonora Regional Influenza Pandemic Response Plan and a formal protocol to share public health information across the Arizona-Sonora border would be es-

tablished.

These efforts will better protect the communities in this bi-national region by creating a cohesive information infrastructure before an emergency arises. Attendees included members of the commission from both Sonora and



## Border Infectious Disease Surveillance The Back Story of BIDS

Initiated in 1999 as a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mexican Secretariat of Health, and border health officials, the development of the Border Infectious Disease Surveillance (BIDS) project was created in response to binational consensus among public health officials with regards to the need for a system on active surveillance of infectious disease along the U.S – Mexico border to enhance the effectiveness of disease prevention.

Nine clinical facilities in four geographically grouped cities along the border participate in this surveillance: Tijuana and San Diego; Ciudad Juarez, El Paso, and Las Cruces; Reynosa and McAllen; Matamoros and Brownsville; Mexicali and Imperial; Nuevo Laredo and Laredo; and Nogales Sonora, Nogales, and Tucson.

Infectious diseases chosen for surveillance include hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E, and febrile exanthems including Dengue and West

Nile Virus.

Active surveillance was selected to enhance existing passive surveillance activities in both countries, and, rather than creating a parallel structure, all activities are integrated into state and national reporting systems.

Since the beginning of the project, in 1999, to July 2005, BIDS has identified 3581 cases along the U.S. – Mexico border for both the hepatitis (2422) and febrile exanthems (1159). Of all hepatitis cases, 1862 were identified at a Mexican site and 560 were identified at a US site. Of all febrile exanthem cases, 749 were identified at a Mexican site and 410 were identified at a US site. As this is an active surveillance system, the data size will increase over time.

For more information, see ADHS OBH website. <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/borderhealth/index.htm>



“Epidemics have often been more influential than statesmen and soldiers in shaping the course of political history, and diseases may also color the moods of civilizations”  
Unknown

### BIDS Coordinator of 4 Years Says Goodbye

Yvette Corral Mulenga, BIDS Site Coordinator, left the office in late June and is now working for the Critical Response & Emergency Systems Training (CREST) Program with the College of Medicine at the University of Arizona.

Yvette was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the BIDS program in Arizona from its inception in October 2002.

Yvette started the surveillance project at University Medical Center with the surveil-

lance list including Hepatitis A - E and Febrile Exanthems. As time went on there was a need to expand the disease surveillance list and the sites of surveillance. In May 2004 Hospitalized West Nile Virus and Pediatric Influenza Surveillance was included in response to disease surveillance needs. As the disease criteria expanded so did the sites of surveillance to Tucson Medical Center.

Yvette you will be missed!

### New Face—BIDS Coordinator

The new Site Coordinator for the Arizona BIDS Program, Roberto Castrillo, joined the office in August. After receiving a degree in Psychology, the native Tucsonan has since worked in many avenues of mental and public health, with a focus on Latino health, HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. Previously, Roberto worked for the University of Arizona providing service to marginalized populations. He was the Program Manager for the Arizona AIDS Education and Training Center, which provided statewide training to Health Care Provid-

ers on issues concerning HIV and AIDS and worked within the Infectious Disease Clinic conducting social work and risk reduction counseling with patients at risk for substance use, sexually transmitted infections, and domestic violence.

He is experienced in developing goals, objectives, planning trainings and evaluating program efforts from patient care to conference planning and implementation.

Welcome to the Office, Roberto!

## Events: October-November

**October:** *Healthy Lung Month; National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

*panic Women's Conference* Phoenix, Arizona

**October 9-13, 2006** is *Border Binational Health Week* For more information and ways to participate, please contact the Office of Border Health.

**November:** *American Diabetes Month*

**November TBD:** 15th BHC Binational Meeting, Mexico

**October 12-13, 2006** *Border Health Research Forum* (closing event– BBHW) Monterrey, NL Mexico

**November 15-17, 2006:** Arizona-Mexico Commission Fall Plenary, Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mx

**October 12-13, 2006** *The 21st National His-*

### Border Binational Health Week

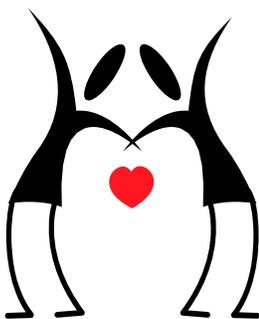
This year, Arizona is participating in the third Border Binational Health Week sponsored by the USMBHC. Events, 10 in total, range from promotora trainings, health fairs, to newsletter kick offs. To get a more detailed look at the events, visit the USMBHC website at [borderhealth.org](http://borderhealth.org) and click on the BBHW logo.

**“Natural disasters, disease outbreaks and potential bioterrorism attacks do not discriminate based on population or geographic location.”**

**John Peterson**

Region	Activities	Dates
Cochise County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Binational Health Week Kick-Off – Agua Prieta</li> <li>•VAX Vaccination Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> issue</li> </ul>	October 11 TBA
Santa Cruz County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Football Soccer tournament &amp; Physical Activities for Families and Teens</li> <li>•Community Health Fair</li> </ul>	TBA October 10-12
Yuma County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Domestic Violence and the Judicial System Promotores Training</li> <li>•Women's Health Fair (Arizona Finale)</li> </ul>	October 11 October 13

### Continuing Education Opportunity for Ten Border Residents



The USMBHC Arizona Section is delighted to announce sponsorship of ten scholarships to help promotores attend the *9th Annual Promotores Conference*.

The recipients of the scholarship are Lourdes Hendrickson

and Rossy Gutierrez from Mariposa CHC, Mary Antone and Loretta Ortega from the Tohono O'odham Nation, Ian Nez and Celia Hayne from Desert Senita CHC in Ajo, Loren Sonke and Mary Correa from Chiricahua CHC, and Gina Garcia and Lucy Murrieta from Campesinos Sin Fronteras.

We would like to acknowledge the recipients and all the applicants for their commitment towards optimizing health and quality of life along the Arizona-Sonora Border.

### Future Newsletters

To have your community events included in the Office of Border Health quarterly newsletter, send us the information, date of the event, and contact information. We would be delighted to either include the information in the newsletter or post it on our web page.

Is there a community member, artist, or provider that you think should be recognized? Or perhaps a outstanding Neighborhood Association? Let us know and we will highlight those groups or individuals in an upcoming newsletter.

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*Leadership for a  
Healthy Arizona*

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## Partnership with the University of Arizona



For a more equitable distribution of funds, the USMBHC Arizona Outreach Office (AZ ORO) signed an interagency service agreement (ISA) with the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH).

Through the ISA, the MEZCOPH will make available Mini-Grants to the Border Communities, which the AZ ORO has implemented for the past 3 years with focus on the Health Border 2010 topic areas, and provided scholarships to support two courses of the Diplomados en Salud Pública, which are a partnership with the MEZCOPH, El Colegio de Sonora, that the Arizona Department of Health Services Office of Border Health and others to provide a training program and exchange for health professionals in Arizona and Sonora. The mini-grants and Diplomado courses support the Commission's commitment towards workforce development along the border.

The Diplomado en Salud was completed with the final course, held on September 18th through the 22nd in Hermosillo, Sonora with the theme "Desarrollo Intervenciones para la Salud Pública/Designing Interventions for Public Health." The courses, 6 in all, included

over 60 public health and health care professionals from Sonora and Arizona. The intent of the Diplomados was to increase Arizona and Sonora's capacity to conduct research, training, and community service and to strengthen the public health infrastructure along the Arizona-Sonora Border. The integration of the Diplomados enforces the primary goal of the Arizona work plan is to work toward strengthening and supporting current binational public health projects and programs along the Arizona-Sonora border which supports the Commission's mission of providing international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States-Mexico border.

The request for proposals have been sent out to the community. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or would like more information about the minigrant process, please contact:

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